

(83-31)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO
BROADCAST OF MAY 2-3, 1959 (RECORDED APRIL 30, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

Since passage of the Kennedy-Ervin Labor Reform Bill, as amended, a week ago, there have been no major issues before the Senate. There have, however, been a number of important matters under discussion on the Senate Floor as well as the usual important committee and sub-committee meetings.

Briefly on the Kennedy-Ervin Bill, I voted with the majority in favor of the amended version. Senator John McClellan, chairman of the Senate Labor Rackets Committee, and I, as well as other members of the Senate, added important strengthening amendments to this bill. Even so, the Senate rejected several amendments which would have added to the bill measures which are needed to protect the working people and the public from the abuses and corrupt practices of some union bosses. I hope that the House will further strengthen the bill to provide the vitally needed protection.

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Appropriations were under discussion in the Senate a good part of the week. I introduced an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill that would make it impossible for the Administration to reduce the strength of our standing Army at this time below a strength of 900,000 personnel. A similar amendment was offered on behalf of the Marines, setting their minimum strength at 200,000 personnel. Both amendments were approved.

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(82-27)

Mr. Robert R. Coker of Hartsville/appeared before the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee the first part of the week/ and gave convincing arguments on the need for additional funds for research to eliminate the boll weevil. The boll weevil has cost cotton farmers ^{more than \$350 million} ~~an average of \$351,877,000~~ yearly over the past six years. During this period, government research expenditures averaged \$73,385 annually -- or two-hundredths of one percent of the amount lost to damage. I am supporting Mr. Coker and the National Cotton Council, in requesting \$1,928,000 for fiscal 1960, and \$960,000 in 1961, to be used for combating the boll weevil.

Also, it is my pleasure to support the National Cotton Council/ and all segments of our cotton industry from grower to manufacturer/ in their request for funds to conduct fiber-quality research at pilot cotton plants. Only at pilot plants, such as the one at Clemson, can true study of the fiber quality be made. Helpful tests have also been made at Joanna Mill. Mechanical cotton pickers and new-type ginning equipment/are among the key reasons for a decline in fiber quality/which threatens to cause the textile manufacturers to change from cotton fibers to synthetics.

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The South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce/and many executive secretaries and presidents of city and county chambers in the State/were in Washington this week for their annual convention. A buffet dinner for the Congressional delegation and staffs was a highlight of their visit. The Chambers of Commerce have many sound

men in roles of leadership, men who South Carolinians can feel certain/are providing a genuine public service for the State.

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South Carolina high school senior classes have been coming by my office this week at the rate of about one a day. It is always a pleasure to take a few minutes off to welcome these groups to Washington/and to advise them to continue their education and to be observant during their tour of the city. In particular, I recommend that they visit the Archives Building, in which is displayed the original Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the two documents on which our liberty and government were founded, and rest today. Blaney, Jonesville, North, Lamar, and Barnwell high school seniors/have been among the more recent visitors to my office.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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